



## Injury Prevention in Rural Kentucky and Ohio: *Capacity-building Effectiveness in Four Safety Coalitions*

### Issue

Injury has been identified as a significant public health problem. In the United States, an estimated 96,600 people died from an unintentional injury in 1999. Injury is the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 34 years. As a result, *Healthy People 2010* includes numerous objectives related to reducing injuries, and increasing the number of education and community-based programs that can assist communities to develop and maintain safer environments. Despite the promise that community-based injury prevention programs may hold, there has been little research to assess the extent to which community coalitions can be an effective and efficient method for addressing community health problems.

**“This project blends academic expertise with practical public health initiatives. By building the capacity of local safety coalitions to implement an integrated program plan, we hope to reduce the burden of injury for all citizens of the Commonwealth”**

F. Douglas Scutchfield, M.D.  
Director, Kentucky School of Public Health

### Response

A community-based project is underway in Kentucky and Ohio to investigate the effectiveness of community coalitions in preventing injuries. Four community organizations in predominantly rural areas will be involved in the project. Two of the four communities will receive training developed to increase their capacity to plan and implement local injury prevention programs. At the end of the project, the communities that received the training will be compared with those that did not to measure the effect that the training had on increasing community capacity to prevent injuries.

The specific aims of the project are to:

- Investigate the relationship between characteristics of an injury prevention coalition and the quality of its injury prevention program;
- Develop a model that outlines the stages a successful coalition proceeds through over time;
- Investigate the relationship between characteristics of an injury prevention coalition and community awareness and knowledge of injury prevention; and
- Evaluate a training program to increase community capacity to conduct injury prevention assessment, planning, and program implementation.

The results of this project will contribute to an understanding of community-building through participatory research to prevent injury.

### More Information

For more information about this research project, contact Carol Ireson, Ph.D., R.N., University of Kentucky School of Public Health, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, 121 Washington Ave., Lexington, Kentucky, 40536-0003  
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For more information about CDC's Community-based Participatory Prevention Research, please contact the Office of Public Health Research, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd., MS D-72  
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